



# Weekly Newsletter

## From the Pastor

*Written by Rev. Tracy Siegman*

**Holy Cow! Congregational Assessment Tool:** Several weeks ago, we completed the Holy Cow! Congregational Assessment Tool. A couple weeks ago, congregational leaders met with a consultant to review the data from that survey. In the coming weeks, I will be doing a sermon series through which I will be sharing the outcome / data from that survey. The sermon series will be called Holiness. In this series, we will explore what it means to be Holy and what is Holy. There will be additional communications sent to you summarizing the data.

**Re-Imagining Church:** Following that series, as we move toward Advent, our sermon series will be Re-Imagining Church. I am seeking stories from Disciples' colleagues about Disciples' churches that have re-imagined what it means to be church and how to do church. I hope to have some videos to share during worship from pastors to share the journey and vision about congregations that dared to step out in faith toward what God was calling them to become. Erin Cash, the director of the Lexington Theological Seminary Thriving Congregations program, will join us on Sunday, October 23rd to kick off the re-imagining series. She will stick around after service for us to share our thoughts about what it means to thrive as church.

**Porta John 3:16:** The congregation has been asked to share our story of the Porta John 3:16 ministry at the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Kentucky. There will be a ministry fair on Friday, November 4th from 3:00 - 7:00 pm. We can set up a table to display information about the ministry and congregational leaders & pastors from other churches in Kentucky can come by to learn more about the creative ministries in Kentucky, like our Porta John 3:16. If you would like to travel to Louisville to represent the church at our table, please contact me or Alex. (I will not be able to attend as I will be marrying Ben Longard and his fiance Sam that evening.)

## Prayer Requests

*List Updated Weekly — Please contact the church office if there are any updates needed.*

Rose & Elton Gudvangen	Phyllis Mead	Dottie Wilke
Joan Peddicord	Mary Durbin	Patricia Lawson
Shane Zeis	Karen Weatherbee	Van
Sue Gallenstein	Angie Carlos	Natasha
Logan	Jim Levett	

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, October 2nd.
- Invitation to Fed by Ravens retreat, featuring Rev. Dr. Joe Michael.
- Why you should consider inviting your friends to church.

## Sunday School Class in September

*Written by: Rev. Tracy Siegman*

Sunday, September 25th, I will be leading a special one class Bible study regarding Matthew 18: 21—35 focused on The Sin of Unequal Relationships and the Money that Creates those Power Structures. This is a Bible study I wrote for a DMin class I did last fall. As we move into the fall, celebrating the abundance of the harvest, reflecting on ministries addressing poverty,

beginning our church budget planning and thinking about our fall stewardship campaign, this is an opportune time for this study. The class will start at 9:30 and meet in the choir / donut room. If you are one that worships from home or unable to make that Sunday, I will offer the class again on Wednesday, September 21 at 6:30 pm via Zoom (link to come soon).

*“We will reflect on how they are achieving the intended goal of the new governance model, how they are missing the mark, what tweaks they may need to make to achieve the intended goal, and so forth.” — Congregational Meeting*

## Congregational Meeting

*Written by Rev. Tracy Siegman*

The congregation will meet on Sunday, October 2nd following worship for a congregational meeting. The primary vote will be whether or not to proceed with the Leadership Council structure for another year. This will be an initial vote. There will be a second vote later this fall to affirm the decision about whether or not to make this change permanent for our congregational governance. As this is a big decision, I ask the congregation to take 2 votes about how to proceed: 1 on 10/2 and 1 later this fall when we approve nominations and the 2023 budget.

This Sunday evening, the Leadership Council will meet. As are all meetings of the Leadership Council, this will be an open meeting. The Leadership Council will discuss, among other agenda items,

their thoughts on their work. We will reflect on how they are achieving the intended goal of the new governance model, how they are missing the mark, what tweaks they may need to make to achieve the intended goal, and so forth. I will ask the Leadership Council to communicate to the congregation about their reflection at / prior to the congregational meeting.

If you have any questions about the Leadership Council, please contact me or a member of the Leadership Council: Sterling Staggs, Sheila lott, Ann Brewer, Richard Addison or Scott Farkas.

**“The congregation will meet on Sunday, October 2nd following worship...”**



## Fed by Ravens

*Written by Rev. Dr. Joe Michael*

1 Kings 17:2-4 The word of the Lord came to him [Elijah], saying, “Go from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. You shall drink from the wadi, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.” (NRSV)

The story of Elijah being fed by ravens is one of a powerful initiation. It's the first time Elijah shows up in the book of Kings and comes immediately after Elijah gave some bad news to the king. This is just one of many examples in the scriptures where God's friends and allies are called away from their normal lives and routines for the purpose of rest, refreshing, and spiritual nourishment.

In this spirit, we're holding a one-day spiritual retreat and you can register [here](#). The retreat will be held in the beautiful surroundings of the [Thomas More Field Station](#) on the bank of the Ohio River. Our retreat will be **October 22, 2022 from 10am-5pm** with lunch included. It will be a time to

- Reconnect with the land, ourselves, and the divine.
- *Renew our vision and sense of purpose for our lives.*
- *Revive and enliven our spirits.*

The cost of the retreat is \$50 (lunch included) and sponsorship is available if cost is a barrier. During the retreat we will seek God's renewing life through prayer, chanting, silence, meditation, and visioning for the future. There will be time for sharing and connection and everyone will be invited to receive prayer and anointing as we close out our time together.

This retreat is co-sponsored by [Church as Folk](#) ministries and [Florence Christian Church](#). The retreat will be led by, [Rev. Dr. Joe Michael](#), an ordained Disciples minister and founder of Church as Folk ministries.

It is sure to be a powerful time connection, renewal, and healing. Please consider joining us in this holy adventure to seek God's wisdom, grace, and power as we participate in Christ's ministry of love, justice, and reconciliation. Space is limited so please register [here](#) to attend.

VOLUNTEER

## Volunteers Needed for Community Dinner!

*Written by Pastor Sheri Jackson*

First Christian Church is responsible for the community dinner served on Saturday, October 1st. We are currently in need of volunteers for that time. If you are interested in helping with this important ministry, please contact the church office or Pastor Sheri Jackson directly.

Thank you!

VOLUNTEER



## Invite A Friend

Written by Rev. Tracy Siegman

Do you remember who first invited you to church? It is either that you grew up in the church and came with your family or a friend invited you to church. Perhaps, you even grew up in a church, moved and had to find a new church. How did you land here?

Every church will say their primary goal is to grow numerically. While we should also be concerned about spiritual growth, I know that more space in our pews is a cause for some anxiety. Aside, from wanting to grow numerically, why do we want to grow?

Every church will add to their list of goals is to attract new young families. While we should also be concerned with the faith of those across the life span, I know that we enjoy having children in our churches. We even enjoy their wiggles and giggles. Why do we enjoy having children in our pews?

The answer is simple. Having lots of children and full pews gives us hope that the Church and the Gospel of Jesus Christ will live on through another generation and that we will have enough servant hands to do the ministries we hope to offer Covington.



But, growing our church means that we must extend the invitation to others. That means we might have to engage in that icky E word – evangelism. Evangelism doesn't have to be scary. If you can tell someone why you loved a movie, why you enjoyed a book, or why you enjoyed a restaurant, you have the practice of telling someone why something is important to you. If you can tell someone about a book, movie or meal, you can invite someone to church.

Simply, think about why the church is important to you; then, tell someone.

Here are some tips on how to invite people to church:

<https://www.stpaulcumc.org/how-to-invite-friends-to-church-so-they-will-actually-come/>

### Excerpt From: *How To Invite Friends To Church So They Will Actually Come*

1. Spend some time with God.
2. Tell your friend a story; your story.
3. Invite your friends to tell you what they believe.
4. Invite strategically.
5. Repeat.





## Recurring Events:

**Sundays 10:45 AM**

Morning Worship

*Join us in-person or from home during our live stream!*

**Tuesdays 2:00 PM**

Women's Bible Study

*Join the weekly Zoom call for a prayer and Bible study session! Contact the church office for the Zoom link if interested.*

**Saturdays 5:00 PM**

Community Dinner

*We prepare and serve a community dinner weekly and always need volunteers! Contact the church office if you're interested!*

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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## Upcoming Events

⇒ **Friday—Saturday, Sept 9th—Oct 1st**

Cincy Shakes presents King Lear, featuring Jim Hopkins

*Contact the church office if you'd like to coordinate a group for a Sunday matinee, or feel free to make other plans to attend.*

⇒ **Sunday, September 18th 7:00 PM**

Leadership Council Meeting

*All members of the congregation are invited to join!*

⇒ **Sunday, September 25th 9:30 AM**

Sunday Morning Bible Study

*A special one class Bible study regarding Matthew 18: 21—35 focused on The Sin of Unequal Relationships and the Money that Creates those Power Structures.*

⇒ **Saturday—Sunday, October 15th —16th**

Disciples Women's Ministries 2022 Fall Retreat

*This year's theme is: "Women, Get Ready... Get Set... Connect!"*

⇒ **Sunday, October 16th 2:00 PM**

FCC Book Club

*The book club will be meeting via Zoom to discuss "The Hotel Nantucket" by Elin Hilderbrand. Contact the church office to be added to the book club's email list.*

⇒ **Saturday, October 22nd 10:00 AM—5:00 PM**

Fed by Ravens Spiritual Retreat

*This retreat is co-sponsored by Church as Folk ministries and Florence Christian Church. The retreat will be led by, Rev. Dr. Joe Michael, an ordained Disciples minister and founder of Church as Folk ministries. It is sure to be a powerful time connection, renewal, and healing.*

⇒ **Monday—Thursday, October 24th—27th**

Colors of Hope Retreat

Gather with LGBTQ+ people of faith and allies from across the Church where you will be encouraged and equipped to **embody your faith—** and **queer your spirituality.** [Register online.](#)

⇒ **Thursday—Saturday, November 3rd—5th**

Biennial Regional Assembly

*The Christian Church in Kentucky will gather in Georgetown this fall. The Assembly team is planning for a feast of workshops, fellowship, worship, and prayer. They are also preparing a digital assembly experience for those who cannot make it to Georgetown.*

***Thank you for reading this week's newsletter!***